THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Railways have identified Bangalore, Mysore, Mangalore and Belgaum in the State of Karnataka for setting up of Budget Hotels.

(c) and (d) It has decided that these hotels would be set up on Public Private Partnership basis wherein the land is being provided by the Railways and construction of hotels is being done by private partners.

Incidents of theft in trains

1284. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the increasing incidents of theft in trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that many cases of theft reported in the Kerala-bound trains recently;

(c) if so, the details of such cases reported since January, 2006;

(d) whether compensation has been provided to the victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the measures taken for the safety of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is a decline in cases of theft of passengers' belongings. Cases reported during the last three years are as under:

No. of cases of theft of passengers' belongings reported	2005	2006	2007 (Upto September)
	10846	10103	8274

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the cases of theft reported in Kerala-bound trains during the year 2006 & 2007 (upto Oct.) are as under:—

Year	No. of cases	Value of Property		Arrest
		Stolen	Recovered	
2006	253	6726793	1031410	106
2007 (upto Oct.)	214	4425673	9883618	95

(d) and (e) There is no provision in the rules to provide compensation for loss or theft of goods unless a railway servant has booked the luggage and given a receipt therefor to the passenger or unless it is proved that the loss was due to negligence or misconduct on the part of the railways.

(f) To provide better security to the travelling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways.

The Railway Protection Force staff are also being deployed to escort more than 1450 trains on an average and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of

State Governments. However, the following measures are being taken by the Railways to check such incidents:—

1. Important trains are being checked with an element of surprise and surveillance is being kept on the activities of criminals involved in drugging and thefts of passengers' belonging.
2. Armed Railway Protection Force staff are deployed to escort selected sensitive trains specially during night for the safety and security of travelling passengers and their luggage.
3. Special Squads are briefed and sensitized by Railway Protection Force officers regularly to be alert on duty to check such crime in trains.
4. Supervisory staff have been instructed to make frequent checks in trains to ensure safety and security of travelling pulbic.
5. Coordination meeting with the Government Railway Police Chiefs at Zonal and Divisional levels are organized to take coordinated action in this regard.
6. Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force staff are deputed on the platforms to keep watch on anti-social elements.

Rail projects in Jharkhand

†1285. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rail projects completed in Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the details of the amount spent on these projects during the said period;

(c) the new rail projects proposed to be started with regard to Jharkhand; and

(d) the progress of these projects and by when these are targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) During last three years, Gauge Conversion of Ranchi-Lohardaga section (67 km) has been completed and commissioned. The details of on-going New Line, Gauge Conversion, and Doubling projects falling fully/partly in the State of Jharkhand, alongwith Length, Anticipated cost, Expenditure upto March, 2007, Outlay 2007-08 and Target wherever fixed, is given below:

(Figures in Rupees crore)

Sl. No.	Project	Length (kms)	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March 2007	Outlay 2007-08	Target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	NEW LINES					
1.	Deoghar—Dumka	72.25	290	171	30	Deoghar—Ghora mora section is targeted to be completed in year 2007-08

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.